



SCOTT ALLEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

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Rep. Allen introduces bills creating criminal penalties for lying on state licenses; fixing cell tower site issues

Representative Scott Allen (R-Waukesha) introduced legislation today creating criminal penalties for individuals who lie on applications for state licensing, and addressing cell tower siting issues.

The Trustworthy Credentials Bill (LRB – 523/1), holds that any person who intentionally makes a misstatement or omission or who submits falsified documentation in an application for a state license is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. The penalty is a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed nine months, or both.

In 2015, an investigation revealed that a convicted rapist and bank robber had received a Wisconsin license to be a social worker. Under current law, the only recourse the state has is to rescind the license. “We need to better protect taxpayers who encounter individuals licensed by the state,” said Rep. Allen. “The system had a shortcoming by failing to provide real penalties for individuals violating the trust we should be able to have in licensed professionals.”

Rep. Allen is also seeking cosponsors for the Cell Tower Siting Bill (LRB – 529/1), which allows local governments to restrict cell tower placement within 750 feet of low-density residential zones. “After the 2013 Biennial Budget, local governments were hamstrung in their ability to stop service providers from building towers just anywhere,” Rep. Allen said. “This bill restores a balance between local interests in preserving property values and the needs of the growing telecommunications industry.”

Both bills are being circulated for co-sponsorship.

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